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PEKING CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

A conference of 250 Christian leaders of 70 different denominations met in Peking on March 15. This was an enlarged plenary session of the national committee of the Three-self Patriotic Movement. Its purpose was to review the life and work of the churches since the conference of August 1954 and to draw up the program for future activities.

One point of special interest in this conference was the presence of two visitors from abroad, Lutheran Bishop Rajah Manikam, who has been joint East Asia Secretary for the World Council and the International Missionary Council, and Rev. G. Nystrom of the Covenant Mission of Sweden, who went with Dag Hammerskjold to Peking last year as his interpreter. We have not had any report of what contribution these visitors made to the Conference, but they preached in Peking on Sunday, March 18, Mr. Nystrom in the Asbury Methodist Church and Bishop Manikam in a CCC Church in the eastern part of Peking.

The main report to the Conference was made by Y. T. Wu. He stated that hundreds of thousands of Christians had now joined the Three-self Movement, a movement which would "enable Chinese Christians to express fully their devotion to Christ and bear better witness to the gospel of Christ." He pointed out that since liberation new church buildings had been built in many places and old ones renovated by the voluntary offerings of time, labor, money and materials on the part of church goers. In the period since the 1954 Conference citywide joint evangelistic meetings had been held in Peking, Tientsin, Shanghai, Ningpo, Amoy and other places, in addition to many separate gatherings arranged by individual denominations and churches. Winter and summer conferences had been held for young Christians. The membership of many churches had grown. The House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church had consecrated three new bishops in June 1955.

He reported also that graduates of the theological seminaries had been placed in suitable church positions and were doing well. Chinese theological scholars and seminary professors were undertaking research into Christian classics and the field of theology. Apart from church activities, Chinese Christians were also taking part in various general social activities. He described the achievements in building up the country in the past year and a half, and said that the society which the Chinese people were endeavoring to construct "is indeed a socialistic order that is just, charitable and in full harmony with our Christian belief."

"Free will is a gift from God," he added. "Every nation has the right to choose its own political system. We would not like other people to interfere with our choice and we would not interfere with other people's choice. In New China, we have better opportunities to preach the true gospel of Christ." He described the efforts made by Chinese Christians to preserve world peace and said, "Christians all over the world, including Chinese Christians, should have a very clear attitude on the question on peace, for we propagate the gospel of redemption, the gospel of peace." He declared that the existence of weapons for mass destruction threatened ruined about 20 times a year to keep mission boards and missionaries informed on Christian work in China. **ANNUAL RATES:** Domestic, \$2.00; Overseas, Firstclass \$4.00, Secondclass \$3.00. Airmail \$5.00 in 15 cent zone, \$7.00 in 25 cent zone. Please send payments as due.

the life of the people and the future of human civilization. Chinese Christians were willing to work together with Christians in other parts of the world for the elimination of war and the preservation of world peace.

CCC Secretary H. H. Tsui presided at the opening service of this conference, and Methodist Bishop Z. T. Kaung preached the opening sermon.

PEKING STUDENT CONFERENCE

A student conference was held in Peking February 8-11. Senior middle school students and above were invited to attend, and arrangements were made for caring for those from out of town. The conference was held in the quarters of Yenching Union Theological Seminary on Fu Hsueh Hutung, but students were directed to send their registrations to the Three-self Committee offices at Mei Cha Hutung (the old American Bible Society residence ?). The speakers for the conference were Bishop K. H. Ting, Rev. Wang Tzu-chung, Rev. Yin Chit-seng (Peter Yin), and Rev. Chao Fu-san.

The conference began with a worship service Wednesday evening. The schedule for Thursday, Friday and Saturday was as follows: Private or group devotions from 7:30 to 8:30, then breakfast, then a preaching service from nine to 10:30. After a fifteen minute recess they met again for small group discussion until twelve.

The afternoon sessions were of a more definitely political nature. From 2:30 to four o'clock they listened to reports on Truth and Poison, The Three-self Patriotic Movement, and a report by an official of the Religious Affairs Bureau on Government Religious Policy respectively for the three afternoons of the conference. The time from four to 5:30 was free, and then after supper the evening session was held from 6:15 to 7:30. The content of the Thursday and Friday evening meetings was not announced in advance, but Saturday evening was devoted to a farewell worship service.

The Preparation Committee for the Conference included all of the above mentioned speakers except Bishop Ting, and also Rev. Newton Chiang, and others up to a total of fourteen.

MISSIONARY NEWS

Mrs. C. L. Pannabecker, Mennonite missionary at Kaichow, Hopei, from 1926 to 1941, died at her home in Peoria, Illinois, on March 4. At the time of her death she was president of the Peoria Council of Church Women.

Dr. Kenneth Hobart, formerly Baptist missionary in Kityang, Kwangtung, and for the past five years professor of missions at Berkeley Baptist Divinity School, has been appointed Hong Kong Director of Church World Service, and left for his new post on April 1.

One of the world travelers with which New York Offices are so full has just returned from a trip around the world and has confirmed the high quality of the work which ex-China missionaries are now doing in other places. He added, however, a sentence which some of our overseas readers may want to take to heart, "The people they work with do get fed up with the frequent declarations that begin with 'Now this is how we used to do it in China -'."

CHURCH NEWS

Professor Joseph L. Hromadka, Dean of the Comenius Theological Seminary in Prague, and Bishop Peter Janos of the Reformed Churches of Hungary, arrived in Peking by plane on March 16. They have been invited to give lectures at Yenching Union Theological Seminary and Nanking Union Theological Seminary. They were welcomed at the airport by Y. T. Wu and Bishop K. H. Ting. The Hungarian ambassador and members of the Czechoslovak embassy were also present to welcome them.

Dr. Khati Lim, head of the Obstetrics Department of the Chinese Union Medical College (the old PUMC) was interviewed by a Hsinhua news reporter on March 7. She is a deputy of the National People's Congress and also of the local Peking Congress. She is also on the Ex-

Executive Committee of the All-China Democratic Women's Federation. She is now engaged in drawing up a long-range plan for a systematic national health program. This earnest Christian doctor has been won over to approval of and cooperation with the present government by its positive and constructive attitude towards public health. She says, "Medicine now no longer serves only the rich. In just six years the nation's mortality rate for infants and mothers has dropped sharply. We have checked some of the most deadly diseases like cholera. The nationwide health campaign has made China clean and healthier."

The Hsinhua News Agency is getting interviews from parents who have children in the United States, in which the parents express their grief and indignation at the obstructive tactics of the U.S. Government. One of these interviews is with Dr. T. C. Chao, who is described as former principal of the Theological College of Yenching University and now Professor of Yenching Union Theological Seminary. He says that his second son Chao Ching-teh is in the United States. He has not heard from him since March 1952. He says, "My wife and I are both in the neighborhood of 70 and are very anxious to have our son and his family back."

The Chinese Student and Alumni Services of the Midwest Area held a retreat in Chicago over the Easter weekend. By March 27, sixty-four registrations had been received for the retreat.

Rev. Edward Lee, President of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Chinese Churches in America, has sent out a message of greetings to fellow-Christians. This four-page message was drafted by Rev. T. K. Chiu, and constitutes a stirring challenge to all. Among the problems of the Chinese churches in America he lists the following: We are small and weak and divided. We cannot find enough ordained Chinese pastors. Some who would otherwise be available have language difficulties. We need good Christian literature in Chinese, and especially a bi-lingual hymnal. The sections of the Message in which an appeal for co-operation and the outlook to the future are expressed are full of a spirit of deep consecration.

Tao Feng, the Chinese Christian journal which was published in New York by a group of Chinese Christians from 1952 to 1954, and which was forced to suspend publication in January 1955, has now decided to make that suspension definite. A firmer financial base will need to be worked out before the project can be revived.

The Peking People's Daily for December 11, 1955, carried an article with the heading: Patriotic Catholic Christians in Shanghai Take Steps to Accuse and Expose the Kung Pin-mei (the Catholic bishop of Shanghai who was arrested last September) Counter-Revolutionary Clique of its Crimes.

SCHOOL NEWS

For four years now the various alumni associations of the former Christian colleges in China have been having a joint annual meeting in Hong Kong. The fourth such occasion was a dinner at the Peninsular Hotel on March 20, at which the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Alexander Grantham, was present and spoke. The eight alumni associations concerned are those of Ginling, Fukien Christian, Nanking, Hangchow, Soochow, St. John's, Shanghai, and the newer Chung Chi in Hong Kong.

The Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region is to have its first university next year. It is announced that the university will open in the outskirts of Huhehot in the fall of 1957. It will offer twelve specialties, including the Chinese and Mongolian languages, history, mathematics, physics, chemistry, zoology, economics, law, etc.

New research institutes and laboratories have been announced for this year. One, an institute of psychology, will be set up in Nanking through collaboration of Nanking University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. An institute of biology will be set up in Kunming; laboratories for research in dynamics and in plant physiology will be set up in Peking, a soil laboratory in Chungking, a microbiology laboratory in Wuhan, a mathematics laboratory in Shanghai, and a geology laboratory in Changchun.

Dr. Ma Wen-huang, formerly professor of political science in the University of Nanking, is now working with Dr. James Yen in Mass Education in the Philippines.